

**HOLY TAXIARHAI and ST. HARALAMBOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH  
PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES FOR APRIL 16, 2019**

**Commencement of Meeting:** Meeting began after Presanctified Liturgy, at 8:09 pm with prayers led by Father Dean. Father George is also present.

**Parish Council Members in Attendance:** N Andrews, T Bournias, W Bozikis, A Demeros, N Gianaris, P Giannopoulos, G Giolas, G Houpis, K Ioannou, T Kanelos, T Karabatsos, E Kiriazopoulos, L Konstantellos, R Kozlowski, D Loomos, J Pierce, M Pontikes, A Rizos, T Sikoral

**Absent:** C Agalliu, A Koutsikos

**President's Remarks:** Holy Week is coming up - please show up early to help ushering during services.

**Minutes: Motion** to accept minutes of March 20, 2019 Parish Council Meeting: A Rizos / 2nd E Kiriazopoulos **Vote:** 8 - 0 - 9 **Pass**

**Correspondence:**

Requests for donations

- 1) 2019 St John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival. (2015, donated \$100) **Motion** to pledge \$100 T Kanelos / 2nd A Demeros **Vote** 17-0-0 **Pass Unanimous**
- 2) Crossroads Hellenic College Holy Cross (summer program for Juniors & Seniors in high school). **Motion** to donate \$100 A Demeros / 2nd T Kanelos **Vote** 17-0-0 **Pass Unanimous**
- 3) National Philoptochos Children's Medical Fund on Nov 16, 2019 at the Chicago Marriott Downtown on the Magnificent Mile. **Motion** to donate \$500 E Kiriazopoulos / 2nd T Kanelos **Vote** 15-2-0 **Pass**

**Treasurer's Report:** Review of February 2019 Financials

Review Fixed Assets due to insurance. Question if adequately insured. Iconography is also valued up to 1-2 million. If the entire building is destroyed, perhaps the insurance wouldn't be enough. Extent of insurance coverage to be discussed for next agenda.

**Motion** to accept February 2019 financials: T Sikoral / 2nd E Kiriazopoulos **Vote** 16-0-2 **Pass**

Discussion: Month over month (January from last year), numbers are not always going to match because of the timing of when donations are received and expenses are paid.

**Committee Reports**

**Food Festival:** Exploring the idea of advertising on fences from local community businesses, while making sure there is no conflict of interest with current vendors. Screening process may need to be in place but Parish Council is interested in pursuing. Considering sending a letter to the Niles Chamber of Commerce to disperse idea, informing we have 20,000 people that walk through our festival etc.

**One-Year Plan Task Force Reports:**

- Faith Cultivation group presented by G Giolas. Smaller Bible studies at people's homes; task group is waiting until after Easter to filter through current ideas. Consider working with Inreach Committee.
- Engaging the Youth of Saint Haralambos group presented by M Pontikes, handout provided. Listen via surveys, with target age groups. Goal to launch initial programs in 2020.

- Communications group agreed to have a meeting after Easter.
- Financial Planning group presented by P Giannopoulos: **1)** Identify a process to streamline the recording and receipting of collections. **2)** Review large recurring expenses (i.e. utilities, copier leases, credit card fees, etc.) and identify viable alternatives. We will not be able to address every expense but we can focus on a couple of significant areas where we think good alternatives exist. **3)** Identify a process to ensure that expenses which can be deducted for Metropolis allocation purposes are captured and reported appropriately. **4).** Identify process for monitoring and improving collections of the Stewardship Process.
- Outreach group had no report.

**Phase III:** Construction has started. Pappas came out late last week and they have been excavating. First is to put in the water detention. That area will be paved with a binder for the Food Festival. They will be accommodating for the festival. Construction will occur within a couple of months. Biweekly with GC and weekly meetings, the change in entrance to Church Grounds will be announced well in advance. Ginny's parking lot is allowing us to use their driveway to get to our back lot.

There was discussion about communication to our parishioners. We are waiting for definitive information and dates. Also we need to create a ledger for Phase 3 expenditures that can be publicized.

**Bright Friday** (presented by E Kiriazopoulos) at 6:00pm, \$25/person. Lamb, pork, chicken, Greek potatoes will be served, there will be a DJ, Parish Council members should be present to help set up and to serve.

**Outreach:** Eli Lilly financed a young adult study for churches (one of the churches was St George) and asked what is missing from their churches. Not enough outreach was selected with the highest frequency. St Haralambos offers many outreach opportunities with many opportunities throughout the year with: Meals on Wheels, Bessie's table, Thanksgiving Luncheon, for examples.

**Stewardship:** April 17, 2019: 355 families committing \$242,572. LY April 30th, 2018: 414 families with \$265,581 committed). Easter fell on April 8th in 2018.

**Building & Grounds:** Slow day this Friday - hope to review lighting in the church. Pole light in the corner keeps going out. Crack in the wall in the community center. Water in the breezeway. Water damage by windows on the east side of the building. Heating in school building is completely out, needs to be replaced definitely before fall, after lasting 34 years. AC units are close to needing replacements. **(Open items)** There is soot by the lights in the Church (ceiling). Options: not to put candles there, or switch to beeswax, or put a power-vented machine, out the wall like at St Demetrios.

**Social Media Committee** met. Create a facebook event for every Holy Week event. Trying to set up a livestream and link it to facebook. Committee came up with a short text with regards to recording church services and having it posted near the front of the church prior to Church services.

Candle Price: leave it at \$3 instead of \$4. Motion to make candles \$4 for Holy Friday and Holy Saturday.

**Motion** made by A Demeros / 2nd L Konstantellos. **Vote 6-12-0 Fail.** Leaving cost of candles to \$3. Ushering email to come out.

### **For the Good of the Parish:**

International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) is having their annual banquet May 16, 2019 at Café la Cave at 6pm. The organization has raised millions of dollars of food and medications, and they help people without discrimination; they don't have to be Orthodox around the world. \$125 per ticket.

Letter/note from Barbara. Next year she will get her Medicare pension. \$165/month or \$1980 per year. We've paid it in the past (for supplemental Medicare coverage). This would be her last year before she gets her full pension coverage. We can find out how it was funded last year. May have been out of Outreach funds because of hardship she experienced with her husband.

**Motion** to cover supplemental Medicare coverage for another year A Rizos / 2nd L Konstantellos. **Vote: Pass Unanimous**

**Jr. Olympics:** Spaghetti/Pasta night day before Junior Olympics Thursday May 23rd, 2019, everyone is invited

**Golf outing** will be Sept 19, 2019.

**Parish Council Retreat** Check with Tom to find out dates and book it.

The sign for the bakesale is too close to the road, hard to see when pulling out. Tomorrow night Bill is going to St George to discuss the parade May 5th.

**Memorial Day Picnic:** Johns Park in Glenview has been reserved for May 27.

**Priests' Remarks:** A lot of things to say about Holy Week and Easter. Put more consciousness into what we are doing. People are coming to the church who are broken, thirsty, hungry and Ushers should be welcoming. It's a good thing, our church has so much richness in what we do and what we teach. Approach Holy Week with the expectation of getting something out of it and not just saying "I Went".

Father George: Saturday of Lazarus retreat this Saturday; for families that have kids between kindergarten and high school. Separate sessions for age groups. Purpose and function as a church is to think about the Stewardship Challenge - as long as there is an improvement from the prior year it is a step in the right direction. Thank you for all that the Parish Council members offer. Get out of the thought habit that going to confession is a scary thing; its purpose is to bring you closer to one another and closer to God.

**Motion to Adjourn:** A Rizos / 2nd Unanimous 10:25 closing prayers led by Father Dean.

Respectfully submitted,

Krystal Ioannou, Recording Secretary